

Alternate 1 has fewer impacts to Neuse River Riparian Buffers than Alternate 2 or Alternate 3. Alternate 1 has approximately 124,823 square feet (ft²) (2.9 acres) of Neuse River Riparian Buffers in Zone 1 and 75,232 ft² (1.7 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 200,055 (4.6 acres). Alternate 2 has approximately 172,705 ft² (4.0 acres) in Zone 1 and 108,019 ft² (2.5 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 280,724 ft² (6.4 acres). Alternate 3 has approximately 135,930 ft² (3.1 acres) in Zone 1 and 79,168 ft² (1.8 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 215,098 ft² (4.9 acres). On NFS lands, Alternate 1 has less impact to Neuse River Riparian Buffers than Alternate 2 or Alternate 3. On NFS lands, Alternate 1 has approximately 46,344 ft² (1.1 acres) of Neuse River Riparian Buffers in Zone 1 and 23,190 ft² (0.5 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 69,534 ft² (1.6 acres). On NFS lands, Alternate 2 has approximately 91,341 ft² (2.1 acres) in Zone 1 and 50,684 ft² (1.2 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 142,025 ft² (3.3 acres). On NFS lands, Alternate 3 has approximately 69,698 ft² (1.6 acres) in Zone 1 and 36,949 ft² (0.8 acres) in Zone 2 for a total of 106,647 ft² (2.4 acres).

4.1.9.3. Protected Species

All protected species surveys and evaluations within the project corridors were conducted by Environmental Services, Inc. with the exception of the surveys and evaluations for the red-cockaded woodpecker and the bald eagle which were prepared by Dr. J. H. Carter III & Associates, Inc.

4.1.9.3.1. Federally-Protected and Federally-Listed Species

4.1.9.3.1.1. Species Protected By Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Species with the federal classification of Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or officially Proposed (P) for such listing, are protected under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). Species listed as Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance [T(S/A)] are not subject to Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The following federal protected species are listed for the project study area for Craven County as of September 22, 2010 and Carteret County as of March 21, 2011 (USFWS list).